The Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM), in collaboration with The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota (TRC), announces the creation of a national traveling exhibition on raptors. This $3.5 million exhibit, which is partially funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, is scheduled to open in St. Paul, MN in June of 1994. Both the exhibit and related programs will be structured around the themes of biodiversity, ecology, and human relationships with nature. Both a 5000 square-foot version and a smaller version (less than 2000 square foot), will be produced and available for venues across the country. Collaboration between museums, zoos, nature centers, and raptor programs will be encouraged and can be modelled on the SMM-TRC collaboration. Activities and components will be designed for use in school programs in collaboration with the St. Paul museum magnet school. We are soliciting the loan or donation of museum quality artifacts relating to raptor biology, conservation, or falconry. Individuals interested in presenting the exhibit at their facility or in their town can begin booking in the fall of 1992.

## ARE AERIAL RADIOTELEMETRY LOCATIONS ACCURATE AND REPRESENTATIVE OF PRAIRIE FALCON ACTIVITIES?

MARZLUFF, J.M., M. VEKASY AND C. COODY. *Greenfalk Consultants, 8210 Gantz Ave., Boise, ID 83709*

Widely ranging raptors are difficult to radiotrack from fixed locations on the ground; therefore, we investigated the feasibility of tracking Prairie Falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) from a Cessna 182 airplane outfitted with a belly-mounted, rotatable, H antenna. We tracked beacons and falcons by homing on a signal, passing directly over the signal's source, and recording our location at that time with an on board global positioning system. Aerial tracking provided more accurate estimates of stationary and mobile beacons' locations than did ground-based tracking (95% confidence ellipses: mean air = 112 ha, mean ground = 875 ha). Aerial accuracy was not influenced by mobility of a beacon and was similar for two observers. Aerial tracking was efficient; thirty free-ranging, breeding falcons inhabiting a 110 km stretch of the Snake River Canyon were accurately located in a 3–4 hr flight. However, because these birds (especially females) spent a majority of their time in proximity of their aerie, most aerial fixes were close to the nesting territory. This resulted in significant underestimates of falcon foraging ranges. We conclude that aerial tracking is easy to learn, relatively inexpensive to implement, and very accurate. However, the extensive flight time required to consistently locate birds away from their aeries will preclude its application in typical studies of home range estimation.

## HOW DO YOU SUCCESSFULLY CAPTURE AND INSTRUMENT SPECIFIC PRAIRIE FALCONS (*FALCO MEXICANUS*) IN A DENSE NESTING POPULATION?

MCKINLEY, J.O., R.R. TOWNSEND, L.S. SCHUECK AND J.M. MARZLUFF. *Greenfalk Consultants, 8210 Gantz Ave , Boise, ID 83709*

During 1991 and 1992, we captured individual Prairie Falcons from specific nesting areas in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area and fitted them with radiotransmitters. We captured 67 Prairie Falcons using a dho-gaza with an owl lure (only 27% of the birds captured were non-targeted individuals). Captures of target birds were maximized by trapping close to the aerie when an individual was present. Capturing a specific sex was easiest during egg laying and early incubation; sets close to the aerie increased our likelihood of capturing females and those farther away were more likely to catch males. To minimize stress during capture, we put "shock absorbers" on the drags to reduce the force of the net's impact on the bird, placed the trap away from obstacles (rocks, steep slopes, sagebrush), and hid someone near the set to quickly retrieve a captured bird. To minimize stress during tagging, we banded and immediately released gravid females and kept other birds hooded and restrained in an abba. When instrumenting individuals, fit of the harness was emphasized and knots were glued and made inaccessible to falcons. We placed the harness's breakaway points on the anterior end of the transmitter to minimize the chances of entanglement while shedding the transmitter. Each radioed individual was monitored after release to assess individual adjustment to the transmitter and to allow for a quick response in case something went wrong. Our precautions succeeded—instrumented birds did not suffer any significant changes in behavior or productivity relative to controls.

## *ORNITHOCTONA ERYTHROCEPHALA* (DIPTERA: HIPPOBOSCIDAE): AN ECTOPARASITE FROM PEREGRINES IN GREENLAND

MEESE, R.J. *Division of Environmental Studies, University of California, Davis, CA 95616*. W.S. SEEGAR. *CRDEC, U.S. Army, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5423*. T. MAECHTLE AND M. ROBERTSON. *Greenland Peregrine Falcon Survey, 307 Blandford Ave., Worthington, OH 43085*

Ectoparasites infecting raptors have received scant attention. Adult peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*) banded near Søndre Strømfjord, Greenland during summer 1992 served as hosts to several engorged ectoparasites The parasites were later identified as louse flies (Diptera· Hippoboscidae). The genus *Ornithoctona,* though widespread, has not been previously reported to occur on peregrines in Greenland.